

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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O 161638Z MAY 75

FM AMEMOASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4307

INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEAITE

HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIAE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8971

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TH US

SUBJECT: KHUKRIT ON THE RTG RESPONSE TO THE NAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. THE PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING ON MAY 16. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPTS FROM THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PORTION OF HIS REMARKS ON THE RTG RESPONSE TO THE UNAUTHORIZED US USE OF MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAYAGUEX INCIDENT.

BEGIN TEXT.

Q. DOES THAILAND CONSIDER THAT ITS SOVERIGNTY HAS BEEN VIOLATED BY AMERICAN ACTIONS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. AND IF UNCLASSIFIED

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SO, SIR. WHAT PLAN DO YOU HAVE TO COUNTER THAT?

A. OKAY. WELL, I PERSONNALLY CONSIDR THE AMERICAN ACTION IN THIS CASE A VIOLATION OF THAI SOVERIGNITY,

AND IN CONTRADICTION

WITH THE AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE WITH THE UNITED STATES.
WE HAVE AGREED THAT THE U-TAPAO BASE IS A THAI BASE SITUATED
IN THAI TERRITORY. THE AMERICAN ARE ALLOWED TO USE
THE BASE BY US. AND ANY ACTION, THAT IS A MILITARY ACTION THAT
TAKE PLACE AT THE BASE MUST BE DONE WITH THE PERMISSION
FROM THE THAI GOVERNMENT. THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT HAD ANY
PERMISSION FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS CASE IN LANDING
MARINES THERE AND SENDING PLANES OUT, EIGHT TO SPY ON
CAMBODIA AND TO ATTACK THE CAMBODIAN FORCE AROUND THE SHIP.
SO WE REGARD THAT AND SENDING PLANES OUT. EITHER TO SPY ON
CAMBODIA AND TO ATTACK THE CAMBODIAN FORCE AROUND THE SHIP.
SO WE REGARD THAT AS BOTH VIOLATION OF OUR SOVERIGNTY
AND CONTRADITION THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN BETWEEN". US
SO WE DECIDED TODAY TO TELL OUR
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO HAND TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM.

RECOUNT IN THAT MEMORUNDAM THE EVENTS THAT HAPPNED AND
WILL TELL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT FOR THE PREVENTION OF
SUCH EVENTS HAPPENING AGAIN IN THE FUTURE THE THAI GOVERNMENT
WILL REVIEW ALL TRADTIES AND AGREEMENTS, IN WHATEVER RESPECT,
THAT THIS COUNTRY HIS MADE WITH THE UNTITED STATES FOR THE
PUPOSE OF BRINGING THOSE TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS
UP TO DATE AND TO SUIT HE CHANGING CONSITIONS THE DAY.

Q. Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, DO YOU EXPECT THAT THE EVENTS OF
THE PAST FEW DAYS WILL LEAD TO PRESSURE WITHIN YOUR
COUNTRY FOR A MORE RAPID WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES?

A UHHH, YES I THINK SO.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THAT TO HAPPEN, MR. PRIME MINISTER?

A. AS I SAID , WE WILL TAKE ALL THIS UNDER REVIEW.

Q. MR. PRIME MINSITER, WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE FUTURE
ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES.... IN SOUTHEAST ASIA?
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A. WILL, I DON'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T THOUGH ABOUT THAT VERY MUCH
MY DESIRE NOW IS TO CHANGE THE ROLE OF THE
UNITED STATES AS A COMROMISER OF THIS COUNTRY, THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S MY MAIN CONCERN. I DON'T... I HAVEN'T TIME TO THINK
ABOUT FUTURE ROLES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GO BACK TO AN
EARLIER POINT. YOU SAID THAT YOU INSTRUCTED YOUR PEOPLE TO
REVIEW ALL TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A. DO WHAT?

Q. YOU SAID YOU INSTRUCTED YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW
ALL TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A. AND AGREEMENTS. YES.

Q. AND AGREEMENTS CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT THAT MEANS? WHAT WILL THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF THAT BE?

A. WILL , WE'LL JUST CHANG THE TREATIES AND ALL, ANY TREATIES AND ANY AGREEMENT THAT APPEARS TO US TO BE AN OBSTRUCTION TO OUR MOVEMENTS UNDER THE NEW CONDITIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE ANY SPECIFIC EXMPLES? A TREATY YOU FELT MIGHT HAV TO CHANGED? AN AGREEMENT WHICH YOU FEEL---

A. WELL, FOR INSTANCE IT MAY INCLUDE THE AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE, IF WE FIND THAT AN THAT DOESN'T SUIT US. IN. UNDER THE NEW CONDCTIONS. WE HAVE TO DO SOMETING WITH IT: WE'LL HAVE TO CHANG IT.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT YOUR DESIRE IS TO CHANG THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AS A COMPROMIER OF THIS COUNTRY. IWENDED IF YOU COULD APLIFY UPON THAT SAY WHAT YOU MEAN BY. HOW THE U.S. COMPROMISES WITH COUNTRY.

A. WELL, BY ITS PROSPECTHERE. I ITS THAT'S ABOUT ALL. OF PEOPLE THINK THAT WE.... WE ARE ENCOURAGING WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AND ALL THAT SORT OF TALK
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Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER THE NEW YORK TIMES OFFICE IN WASHINGTON SENT ME A MESSAGE THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST SAYING THAT IS WAS UNDRSTOOD IN WASHINGTON THAT THAILAND HAD BEEN ADVISED IN ADVANCE OF THE MARIN ACTION IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AND POSSIBLY THE THAI ARMY WAS INFORMED BY SOME AMERICAN MILITARY PEOPLE...

A. NO. NO. NOT AT ALL. THAT WAS. THAT IS A FALSE REPORT BY THE NEW YORK TIMES. THE COMMANDER OF THEE ARMED FORCES WAS HERE JUST A MOMENT AGA ATTENDING THE MEEING WE ASKED HIM ON THAT POINT. THERE'S NO AGREEMENT NO UNDERSTANDING THEY WERE NOT INFORED.

Q. ANY U.S. MARINES FROM THE ... STILL AT U-PAOA?

A. BEG PARDON'

Q. ARE ANY OF THE MARINES STILL IN THAILAND OR HAVE THEY ALL FEFT NOW?

A. ACCORDING TO REPORTS THEY LEFT THIS MORING AT FIVE

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD BY THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY.
SIR. OR BY OUR MILITARY?

A. BY OUR COUNTER TO YOUR CIA (LAUGHTER)

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER AS YOU KNOW, THE SCHEDULE FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES REQUIRES THAT THEY LEAVE THE
COUNTRY WITHIN ONE YEAR.

A. YES

Q. DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT THEY WILL BE DRASTICALLY SPEEDED
UP, THAT THEY WILL BE LEAVING WITHIN SAY 2 MONTHS:

A. WELL, THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY. BECAUSE BY SPEEDING
IT UP. DRASTICALLY MIGHT INCONVENIENCE US IN MANY WAYS.
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF ALL THESE CAMPS
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SITES AND SO ON U-TAPAO, FOR EXAMPLES, IS A BIG COMPLEX.
WE ALSO WILL NEED TIME.

Q. SIR. DO YOU.

A. I MEAN. WE'RE NOT GOING TO SET ANY CONDITION FOR US.

Q. DO YOU FEEL THAT THAILAND'S SECURITY CAN BE GUARANTEED;
GUARANTEED IN THE FACE OF WHAT SOME ASSERT IS AN
INSURGENCY ENCOURAGED BY VIETNAM OR BY CHINA, IF
AMERICAN FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY FROM THAILAND
DO YOU THINK THAT THAILAND IN THE ABSENCE OF AMERICAN
FORCES CAN PROVIDE A ... FORCE ON THE COMMUNISTS?

A. WELL IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY.
THAT DEPENDS OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS I THINK.

Q. WHICH WAY SIR?

A. WELL IF ANY HARM COMES TO THAILAND I DON'T
THINK IT'S THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ANY MORE BEFORE
ELECTIONS WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER AMERICA WILL COME,
WHETHER THE MARINES WILL COME FLYING OR NOT IT WILL BE
CONGRESS, AND I DON'T KNOW YOUR CONGRESS ENOUGH TO PUT ANY
TRUST IN IT.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER SEVERAL DAYS AGO YOU SAID YOU WERE
CONSIDERING SEVERING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A. I DID NOT SAY THAT. AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT. I LIKE
AMERICANS.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, IF I MAY ASK YOU IN THIS WAY. HOW SOON

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE U.S. MILITARY CLOSE UP ITS
BASES AND MOVE OUT OF THIS COUNTRY?

A. WELL, YOU SEE, THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM I MEAN PHYSICALLY.
TALKING ABOUT IT ON THE PHYSICAL TERMS. THERE ARE 20-ODD
THOUSAND MEN WITH EQUIPMENT AND SO ON AND SO ON. I REALIZE,
I ADMIT THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T DO THAT IN A
HURRY. BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T ONLY INCONVENIENCE THE AMERICANS.
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THAT'S IMMATERIAL. BUT IT WOULD ALSO INCOVENIENCE US.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER DO YOU FELL THAT A FORMAL
APOLOGY FROM WASHINGTON IS IN ORDER AT THIS POINT.
A WELL. IT WOULD PACITY QUITE ALOT OF ELEMENTS IN THIS
COUNTRY. THE CROWDS, THE PEOPLE WHO CROWD AROUND LONG
LIVE INDEPENDENCE AND THAT SORT OF THING. AS AHARDENED
POLITICIAN I DON'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT.

I WOULD PREFER SINCERITY AND ACTIONS TO JUST MERE WORDS
OF APOLOGY.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER HOW DO YOU FORSEE THAILAND'S
FUTURE AS FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE IN THIS PART OF
THE WORLD.

A JUST THAT. JUST AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE IN THIS
PART OF THE WORLD. THAT'S A VERY BEAUTIFUL PICTURE.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER WHILE THESE TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS
ARE BEING REVIEWED, DO YOU SEE ANY OTHER ACTION THAT MIGHT
TONE DOWN THE U.S. ROLE HERE? IMMEDIATE ACTION.

A. WELL, I DON'T KNOW. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE A
FORCAST ON THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS LAST AFFAIR
ABOUT THE AMERICAN MERCHANTMEN. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE
CAMBODIANS SEIZED IT AT ALL.

Q. WELL IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THESE TREATIES AND
AGREEMENTS DO YOU EXPECT TO DO ANYTHING ELSE?

A. NO, NOT AT THIS STAGE. NO. I THINK THAT IS THE
ACTION WE'LL TAKE RIGHT NOW. NOTHING ELSE.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER YOU HAVE A MOMENT AGO SPOKEN OF
YOUR OWN LIKING FOR AMERICANS AND FOR THE UNITED STATES.
AND YOU'VE SPOKEN OF ELEMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY WHO WILL WELCOME
SOME SORT OF ACTION TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THAI-AMERICAN
RELATIONS THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE. WHAT SORT OF GESTURE WOULD
YOU SIR. WELCOME FROM THE UNITED STATES AT THIS POINT:

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A. WELL (PAUSE) WELL THERE HAS BEEN DEMAND FOR THE UNITED STATES TO APPOLOGIZE, I DON'T THINK THE UNITED STATES WILL GO THAT FARE. BUT A SORT OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT ASSURING US THAT THAT SORT OF THING WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN AND IN THE FUTURE MORE ATTENTION AND RESPECT WILL BE PAID TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S WISHES BECAUSE WE ARE ONE OF THE FAST VANISHING FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD. THAT WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND I THINK IT WOULD PUT THE MATTER ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

Q. WHY DON'T YOU EXPECT AN APOLOGY?

A. WELL WOULD THE UNITED STATE MAKE AN APOLOGY I ASK YOU

Q. WELL I ASK YOU WHY WOULDN'T THE UNITED STATES APOLOGIZE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T FORSE THAT SOMEHOW. IT'S JUST AN INSTINCT. I SUPPOSE.
WHITEHOUSE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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